

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (02/06/17) MINUTES
January 16, 2017 at the Emergency Services Facility**

Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the East Montpelier Charter

Selectboard members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Kim Swasey, Gene Troia; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

Other town officials present: Charter Committee members Edie Miller, Richard Brock, Rick Mastelli, Kim Watson, Norman Hill, Michael Duane; Collector of Delinquent Taxes Karen Gramer; Listers Rob Chickering, Chris Racanelli; Town Clerk CJ Flynn; Auditor Deb Fillion; Treasurer Don Welch

A public hearing of the Selectboard (SB) on changes to the East Montpelier charter proposed by the Charter Committee was warned to precede the Selectboard regular meeting. Chair Seth Gardner called the hearing to order at 6:12. No members of the general public were present. Two versions of the proposed amendments were presented: the original Charter Committee language and an alternative version developed by the Selectboard after reviewing the committee's report. The board received feedback from Charter Committee members and other town officials. The hearing was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Regular Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Kim Swasey, Gene Troia; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

Others present: Don Welch, Karen Gramer, Michael Duane.

A. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:08 pm, Chair Seth Gardner called the Selectboard meeting to order.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Ms. Gramer followed up on her previous proposal to go to tax sale on three properties. She has spoken with attorney Jim Barlow about him representing us in the tax sales. The SB asked her to request Mr. Barlow send us a letter of engagement, outlining the terms under which he would represent the town. The board and Ms. Gramer will revisit the issue at the January 20, 3017 board meeting.

E. TOWN TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer Don Welch assured the SB that there is "Nothing noteworthy to report." He presented a detailed written report on the state of the budget and indicated the town's General Fund is in good shape.

F. DISCUSSION ON FY2018 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Figures are becoming available on the final remaining line items. The budget is set to hold the tax rate increase to 0.9%.

G. DISCUSSION ON 2017 TOWN MEETING WARNING

The SB discussed language Mr. Etnier and others had developed for the advisory article on designating the town a Sanctuary Town.

H. DEVELOPMENT OF 2016 SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT

The SB discussed details of the report, altered the draft language slightly, and agreed by consensus to submit the report for publication in the 2016 Annual Report.

I. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

The SB discussed how to revise the proposed charter amendments in light of the input at the earlier hearing.

J. WARRANTS

Signed.

K. MINUTES

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of December 19, 2016 as submitted. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of January 2, 2017 as submitted. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of January 9, 2017 as submitted. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will hold a special meeting to amend its bylaws on Local Government Day, February 15. Mr. Etnier and Ms. Swasey are both interested in attending; Ms. Swasey will check her calendar. The SB will appoint a town representative at a later meeting.

The next SB meeting is rescheduled to January 30. The budget and town meeting warning will be finalized.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0. 9:40 pm.